

Medicare 101



**How to Make the Most of
your Coverage**



SHIIP

IOWA'S MEDICARE
RESOURCE

What Is SHIIP?

Objective Information Source

- Part of the State of Iowa Insurance Division
- Help Iowans with questions and problems related to Medicare
- Free
- Confidential
- Objective – doesn't recommend or endorse specific companies, products of agents

Protect Yourself & Medicare

PROTECT— Protect your personal information. Treat your Medicare and Social Security numbers like your credit cards. Never give these numbers to a stranger.

DETECT— Review your Medicare statements for mistakes by comparing them to your personal records.

REPORT— If you think you have been a target of fraud, report it



800-351-4664 or your local SHIIP

Today We Will Cover

Medicare eligibility and enrollment

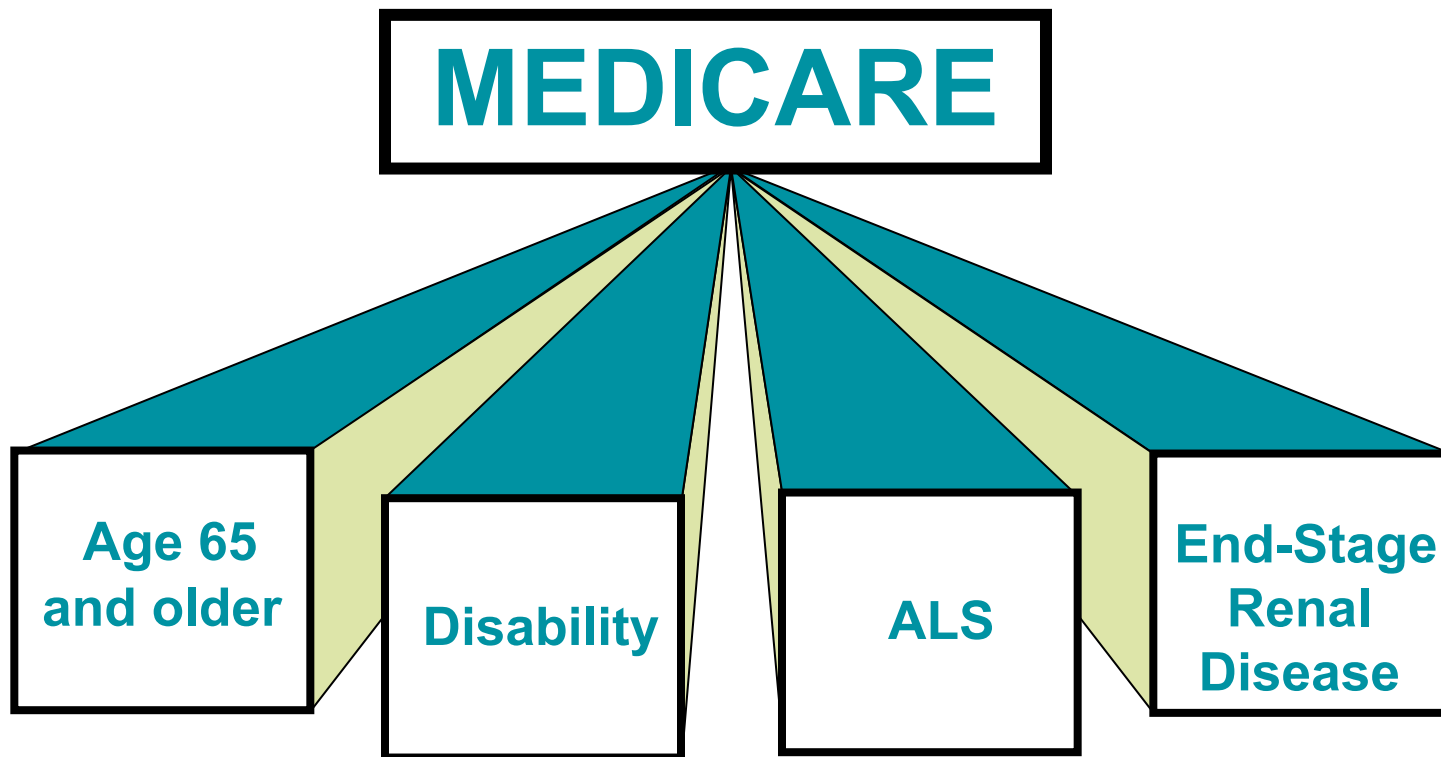
Your Medicare choices:

- Original Medicare Parts A & B
- Supplementing Medicare
- Prescription Drug Plans – Part D
- Medicare Advantage Plans – Part C

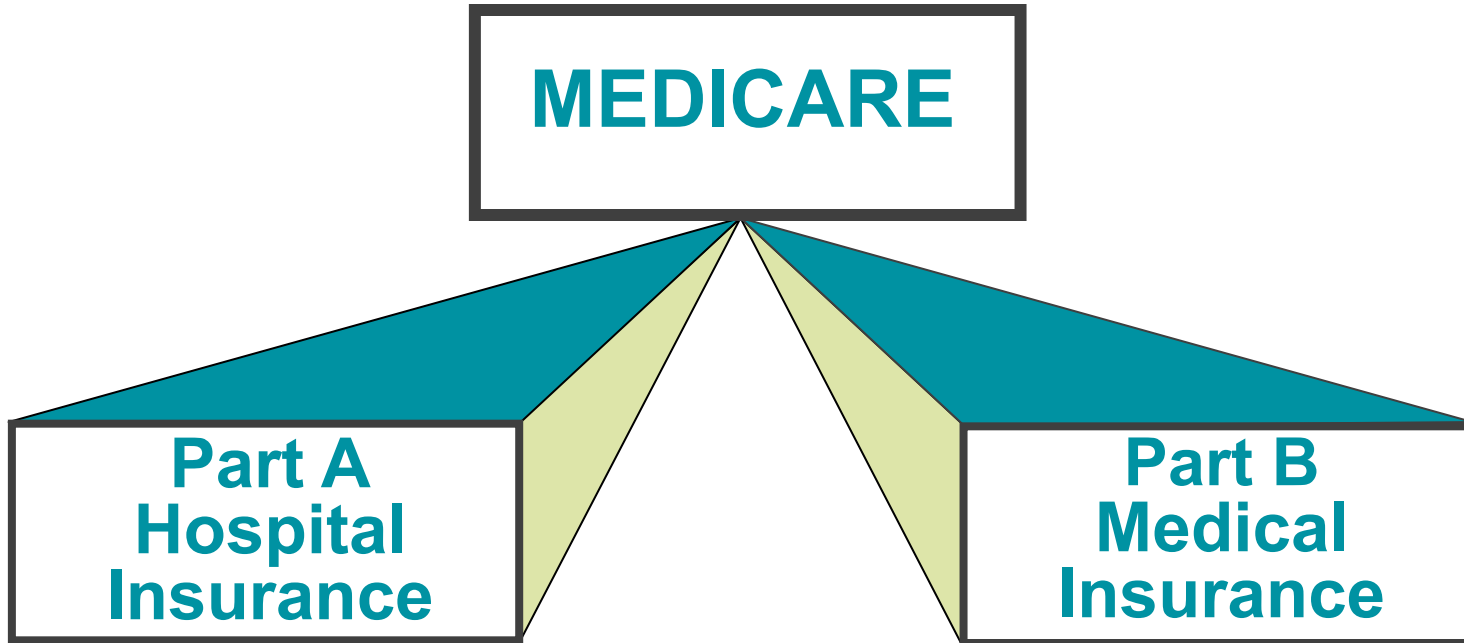
Making the most of your coverage

MEDICARE - Who Is Eligible?

Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident for 5 years



Medicare Health Insurance



I will work past age 65

For purposes of enrolling in Medicare, “work” means:

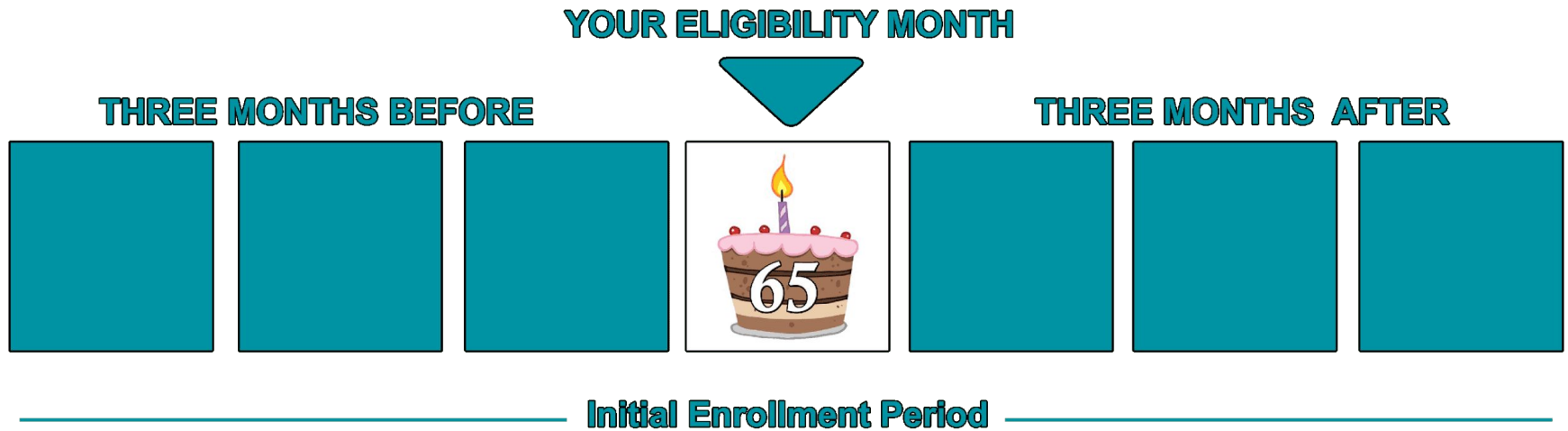
In the month in which you turn 65

- You are **actively** working for an employer who **provides you with group health insurance** or
- Your spouse is **actively** working for an employer who **provides group health insurance** which covers you

I'm turning 65 will be retired

- Medicare is your primary coverage.
- Need to enroll in Medicare **Part A** and **Part B** or
- You may pay a higher premium.
- Retirement health coverage from employer will pay after Medicare.
- If you are drawing Social Security or RR retirement benefits, enrollment is automatic.
- Otherwise, contact Social Security or the Railroad Retirement board.
- You can enroll online at www.ssa.gov

Initial Enrollment Period



Employer has 20 or more employees

- Can continue on employer plan
- Employer coverage is primary
- Delay Medicare Part B without penalty



Employer has fewer than 20 employees

- Employer is not required to offer health insurance
- Medicare is primary insurance

Do you have a **Health Savings Account**?

- If so, do not enroll in Medicare while working
- Once you enroll in Medicare you are no longer eligible to make contributions to your HSA
- No penalty for delaying Part A

Note: When you do enroll in Part A, your enrollment will be backdated up to 6 months

Should I Delay Enrolling In Part B While Working?

If you or your spouse are working and covered by your employer's group health insurance, based on active employment, consider this:

- Part B coverage usually is secondary to employer coverage
- Part B costs a monthly premium
- Enrolling in Part B triggers a 6 month one-time guarantee to purchase a Medicare Supplement.
- You can delay Part B if you have employer health coverage due to active employment with no penalty.

Special enrollment periods to enroll in Medicare Part B.

- Anytime while covered by employer group health plan
 - You have up to 8 months after worker retires to enroll in Medicare Part B
 - You can enroll in Medicare Part A any time
-
- When your employer coverage ends, you also have a special enrollment period to enroll in a drug plan or a Medicare Advantage plan.

Your Medicare Coverage Choices

Original Medicare

Part A Hospital Insurance
Part B Medical Insurance

Supplemental Coverage

Prescription Drug
Coverage – Part D



Medicare Advantage Part C

Combines Part A & Part B

May include Prescription
Drug Coverage – Part D



Original Medicare

- Use any provider anywhere in the US who accepts Medicare and has a provider number.
- You do not need a referral to see a specialist.



Medicare Supplement Insurance

- Health insurance policies sold by private insurance companies
- Also called “Medigap”
- Cover “gaps” in Original Medicare Plan
- 10 standardized policies
Plans A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L, M, N
- Guaranteed renewable
- Guarantee issue at “preferred” pricing during the first 6 months you have Part B and are 65 or older

Is Plan F going away?

- People who were eligible to enroll in Medicare before January 1, 2020, may buy Plan F or Plan C.
- Those first eligible to enroll in Medicare January 2020 or later, may not.
- If you have a Plan F or a Plan C, you may keep it.
- The Iowa Insurance Division actuaries do not expect premiums for Plan F or Plan C to skyrocket.

Medicare Part D

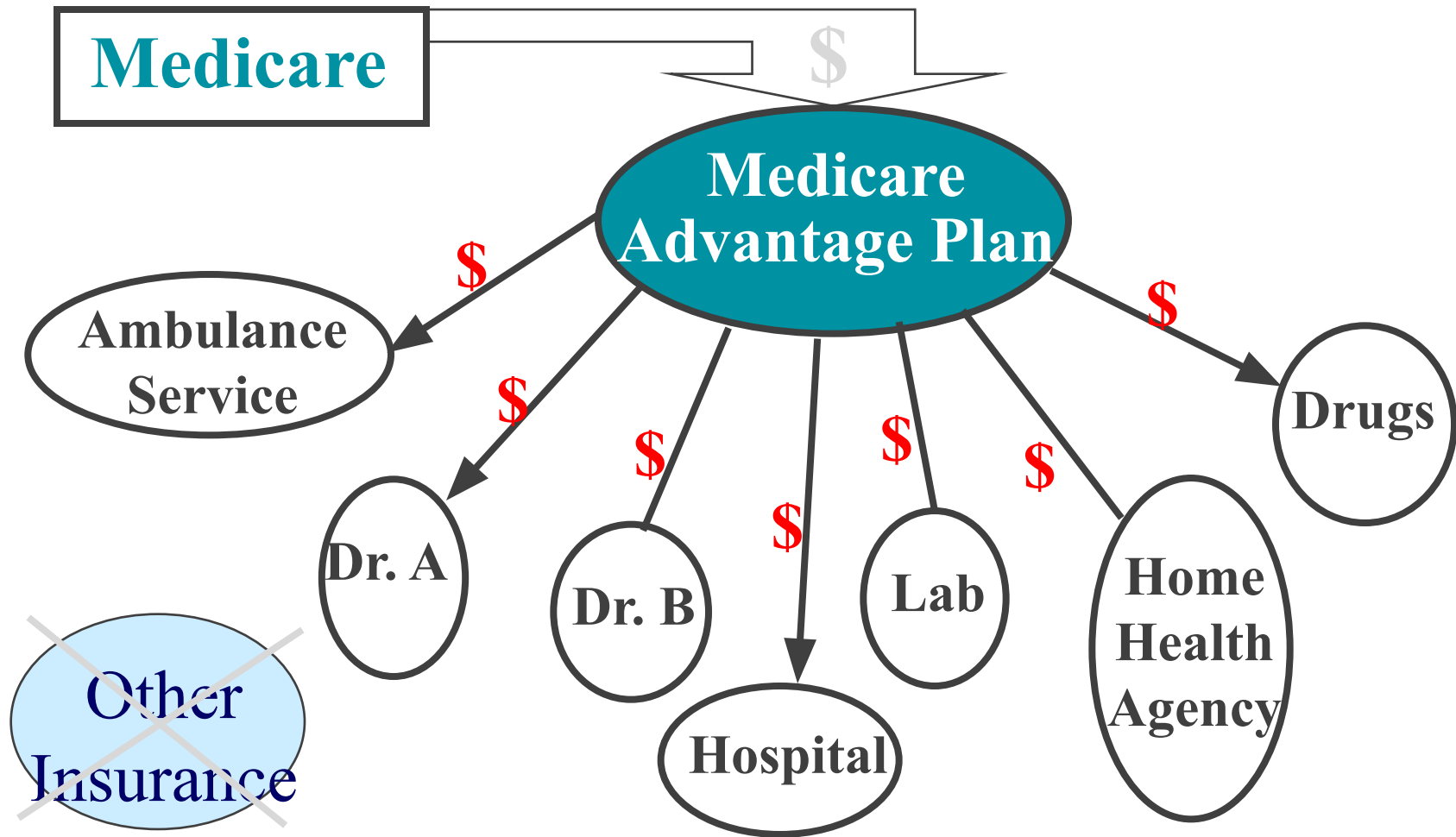
- Available for all people with Medicare A and/or B
- No health-related questions
- Optional – but you can only enroll at certain times
- Delaying enrollment may incur a penalty – about \$4 per year without drug coverage currently.



Medicare Advantage - Eligibility

- Have Medicare Parts A & B
- Live in the service area (county-specific)

Medicare Advantage (Part C)



Medicare Advantage - A Private Solution

- Medicare pays set amount to plan
- MA plan handles all claims
- MA plan is required to provide Medicare Part A & Part B services
- May include drug coverage
- May offer extra benefits not covered by Original Medicare
- Use Medicare Advantage Card for services and not your Medicare card

Medicare Advantage plans

- Lower premiums generally
- Out of pocket costs each time you use care
- Costs may be higher or lower than original Medicare
- Have an annual maximum out of pocket cost
- Network based – such as PPO or HMO
- May need a referral to see a specialist
- May need prior authorization for procedures or care
- May offer extra benefits such as eye exam, hearing exam, preventive dental coverage, health club membership

Medicare Cost Plans - another alternative

- Must live in the plan's service area
- Enrolled in Part A and Part B for most plans
- Covers Part A and Part B services
- Flexibility to use in-network and out-of-network providers
- Can buy a stand-alone Part D drug plan
- May cover some services that Original Medicare does not cover such as a routine physical, hearing, vision, dental or health club memberships

- In this part of Iowa, the Cost plan is Medical Associates "Central Iowa Health Senior Plan"

Drug plans

- Two new plans in Iowa in 2021
 - SilverScript Smart Rx
 - Mutual of Omaha Rx Premier
- Envision Rx Plus has been renamed Elixir Rx Plus
- Journey Rx Value and Journey Rx Standard will no longer be offered in 2021 and members will be non-renewed.
 - Enroll in a different plan to continue coverage
- Mutual of Omaha Rx Value will no longer be offered in 2021. Its members will be enrolled in Mutual of Omaha Rx Plus.

Senior Savings Model

- Drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans may agree to cover common insulins at a cost of no more than \$35 for a 30-day supply,
- Participation in this model is voluntary
 - 9 drug plans will do this in 2021

Acupuncture

For those with chronic low back pain with no known cause

- Up to 12 visits in 90 days
- Possible 8 additional visits

Medicare Advantage Plan

Those with ESRD may join

Open Enrollment Period October 15 – December 7

- Look at Drug plan or Medicare Advantage options for 2021
- Change your plan – or keep your current plan
- Enroll in a drug plan for the first time
- Change from original Medicare to Medicare Advantage
- Change from Medicare Advantage to original Medicare

Visit Medicare's website at www.medicare.gov

Preventive Benefits

Annual wellness visit

Qualify for extra help with drug costs?

SHIIP can help you apply

	Income	Resources
Single	\$1615 per month	\$14,610
Couple	\$2175 per month	\$29,160

Contacting SHIP--SMP

Statewide: 1-800-351-4664
(TTY 1-800-735-2942)

E-mail: shiip@iid.iowa.gov

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